

Ser. No. 10/525,056

Internal Docket No. PF020103

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS 1-9 (CANCELED)

CLAIM 10 (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a micro-controller;

an IC card reader including a card presence switch, said card reader supplying an IC card detect signal to said micro-controller when an IC card is inserted into said card reader;

a power supply for providing a supply voltage to said IC card via a mechanical contact terminal of said IC card reader when said IC card is inserted into said card reader; and

an overload protection circuit coupled to said supply voltage which simulates IC card extraction by switching off said supply voltage when an overload of said supply voltage occurs.

CLAIM 12 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said overload protection circuit changes said card detect signal from positive to negative when an overload of said supply voltage occurs.

CLAIM 13 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said overload protection circuit is further coupled to said card presence switch.

CLAIM 14 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said overload protection circuit comprises a diode and a component selected from the group comprising a comparator and a switch, said circuit being arranged for detecting a voltage breakdown of said supply voltage.

CLAIM 15 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 10 further including a switching means responsive to a supply voltage "ON/OFF" command provided by said micro-controller for switching on said power supply only when said card detected signal is positive.

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CLAIM 16 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said switching means is a logic circuit gate.

CLAIM 17 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said overload protection circuit provides an error signal when an overload of said supply voltage occurs, said error signal changing via a logic circuit said card detect signal from positive to negative for simulating said IC card extraction.

CLAIM 18 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said supply voltage is a supply voltage for said IC card reader.

CLAIM 19 (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said apparatus is selected from the group comprising: a digital set-top box and a digital satellite receiver, said apparatus including an IC card reader for authorizing reception of pay television broadcast.